

Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants

What does this program do?

This program helps eligible communities prepare, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water.

The following events qualify as an emergency:

- Drought or flood
- Tornado or hurricane
- Chemical spill, leak or seepage
- Earthquake
- Disease outbreak
- Other disasters

NOTE: A federal disaster declaration is not required.

Who may apply for this program?

- Most State and local governmental entities
- Nonprofit organizations
- Federally recognized Tribes

What is an eligible area?

- Rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or less - [check eligible addresses](#)
- Tribal lands in rural areas
- Colonias

The area to be served must also have a median household income less than the state's median household income for non-metropolitan areas. Contact your [local RD office](#) for details.

How may funds be used?

- Water transmission line grants up to \$150,000 to construct waterline extensions, repair breaks or leaks in existing water distribution lines, and address related maintenance necessary to replenish the water supply
- Water source grants up to \$500,000 to construct a water source, intake or treatment facility

Are matching funds required?

Partnerships with other federal, state, local, private and nonprofit entities are encouraged.

How do we get started?

- Applications for this program are accepted year round through your [local RD office](#).
- Program Resources are available online (forms, guidance, certifications, etc.).

Who can answer questions?

- Staff in your [local RD office](#).
- Participating nonprofit associations

What law governs this program?

- Code of Federal Regulation, [7 CFR 1778](#)
- Section 306A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act

“Why does USDA Rural Development do this?”

This program helps prevent damage or restore households and business' access to clean, reliable drinking water in eligible rural areas and towns following natural disasters. Funding can improve the natural environment and encourage manufacturers and other businesses to locate or expand operations.

NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change please always consult the program instructions listed in the section above titled “What Governs this Program?” You may also contact your [local RD office](#) for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at www.rd.usda.gov. *USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*